

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Pathfinder bookstores push
six-month sales effort

—PAGE 4

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La migra raids Wal-Mart; target is workers, union

More than 250 workers arrested in middle of union-organizing effort

BY RÓGER CALERO

More than 250 workers were arrested by immigration cops in coordinated pre-dawn raids October 23 at Wal-Mart stores throughout the United States.

Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE) agents arrested the workers as they were finishing the night shift as janitors for the retail giant at 60 stores in 21 states. They now face deportation.

"This is the biggest raid in a few years," said Garrison Courtney, a BICE spokesperson.

The action was cynically dubbed "Operation RollBack," after the retailer's price-reduction slogan. Trying to paint a false picture of concern by Washington about the conditions of these workers, Courtney said, "We are always looking at companies that are knowingly exploiting people for the purpose of making money."

The raids, however, come in the midst of an effort by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) to organize Wal-Mart employees into the union. For years the company has repeatedly attempted to block the unionizing efforts by intimidating workers through firings of union supporters and threats to take away benefits if the workers unionized.

In February 2000, when meat cutters at a Wal-Mart store in Jacksonville, Texas,



Victor Zavala, a janitor at Wal-Mart, and his wife Eunice (left) face deportation to Mexico after being arrested at the Old Bridge Wal-Mart department store in New Jersey October 23.

voted to be represented by the UFCW, the company refused to recognize the union, and instead moved to distribute prepackaged meat and changed the job functions of the meat cutters.

"We are angry about the raids and deportations," Bernie Hesse, head of the organizing department of UFCW Local 789 in St.

Paul, Minnesota, told the *Militant*. "Once again it is the workers who are getting screwed."

The stakes in the organizing drive are high for both the bosses and the workers. Wal-Mart is the country's largest private employer with 1.2 million workers in the

Continued on Page 10

Utah students organize support for locked-out Co-op miners

BY ANNE CARROLL

PRICE, Utah—"We set up a table for five days during lunchtime to collect money for the Co-op miners," said Gokcer Ozgur, a student at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, in an October 24 interview. "All workers have to be organized so these problems of exploitation won't occur. If these miners in Huntington are organized into a union it will be better for themselves and other workers."

Ozgur and other members of the Students Labor Action Project on that campus have been distributing fact sheets on the Co-op miners' fight at their school. Support for the coal miners locked out since September 22 has been spreading in the coalfield communities around Price and Huntington, Utah, where the Co-op mine is located, and in the rest of the state.

The miners were involved in a union organizing drive before the lockout. They had been talking to the United Mine Work-

Continued on Page 10

EU powers squeeze Iranian gov't to allow nuclear inspections

BY SAM MANUEL

Under intense pressure from Paris, Berlin, and Moscow, the Iranian government announced it would agree to demands of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to allow surprise inspections of its nuclear facilities. In response Washington made it clear it will continue to press for further concessions. U.S. president George Bush has labeled Iran, along with north Korea, as part of "an axis of evil." Over the last year, the White House has stepped up accusations that nuclear energy facilities in Iran, some of which are being constructed

Continued on Page 2

Venezuelans carry out literacy campaign with aid and volunteer trainers from Cuba



Milena Réngel (left), a college student, teaches reading and writing at rural community in Las Trincheras, Venezuela, October 7 as part of national literacy campaign.

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND CAMILO CATALÁN

LAS TRINCHERAS, Venezuela—"I signed up at the university when I heard they were looking for facilitators for Mission Robinson," said Milena Réngel, walking up the hill in this rural community just before starting a literacy class the afternoon of October 7. "The class lasts two hours every day during the week. I take the bus to come here from the University of Carabobo to teach a group of 30 people."

Réngel, 25, a student at the teachers college in the University of Carabobo, is among the more than 100,000 volunteers—overwhelmingly university students—who are taking part in a massive literacy campaign throughout Venezuela. Mission Robinson, as it is called, was launched July 1. It is named after Simón Rodríguez, a nationalist poet and schoolteacher in Caracas who was nicknamed Robinson because of his fascination with the novel *Robinson Crusoe*. Rodríguez served as teacher to Simón Bolívar—Venezuela's national hero and a leader of the struggles against Spanish colonialism in Latin America.

The goal of the campaign is to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic to more than 1.5 million people who are illiterate, about 12 percent of adults in this country of 24 million people.

The Venezuelan government launched Mission Robinson with substantial help from Cuba. Havana has donated tens of thousands of television sets, VCRs, videotapes, and printed material used in the classes. In addition, dozens of Cuban instructors have helped train the young volunteers now teaching peasants, fishermen, workers, and others how to read and write. The program

Continued on Page 6

'Militant' supporters put camera fund over the top!

The *Militant* thanks all its readers who contributed so generously to make the camera fund a success.

Over the last week, *Militant* supporters from Atlanta, Boston, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and New York contributed \$1,550 toward the *Militant's* camera fund. These donations put the fund at \$4,050—over the top! "If these pictures from Venezuela are a sample of what can be done with these tools, more need to be put

into service," wrote a reader from Denver October 21. "Timely pictures like these add a quality to the paper that's exciting."

The fund was launched to replace the paper's brand-new digital camera and three lenses stolen in New York in September—a \$4,000 loss. Funds were then borrowed to ensure the reporting team in Venezuela had the proper equipment. "We greatly appreciate the rapid response by our readers," said *Militant* editor Argiris Malapanis.

Also Inside:

- Workers in Italy strike against gov't plan to up retirement age 2
- U.S. warmakers make gains in 'global war on terrorism' 3
- Rumsfeld presents memo on bolder moves in U.S. gov't war on terrorism 5
- Peasants in Bolivia press demands for land 7
- New York construction workers rally to defend union 9

Italy: workers strike against plan to raise retirement age

BY SAM MANUEL

A four-hour strike against the Italian government’s proposal to raise the retirement age paralyzed much of the country October 24. “If the government doesn’t change its course... they can expect us to continue our protests,” said Guglielmo Epifani, a leader of the CGIL—the largest of the three unions organizing the strike—at a march in Bologna.

Demonstrations and rallies of thousands took place in over a hundred piazzas throughout the country. “We should look in general at the life of a human being, which cannot be considered only in terms of work,” said Amicio Antonucci, 54, one of the protesters at Piazza Navona in Rome.

Most media reports said hundreds of thousands participated in the strike. Union leaders estimated participation at 1.5 million.

Alitalia cancelled more than 150 flights

and announced it expected another 124 would be delayed or rerouted. Much of the rail system lay idle. Schoolchildren across the country stayed home as teachers joined the strike and hospitals announced they could only guarantee staff for emergency services. The automaker Fiat scaled back production in the face of the strike. Italy’s last general strike took place in April last year against government proposed changes in the labor law.

The first government of Italian president Silvio Berlusconi split apart and collapsed just seven months after taking office in 1994 when it attempted to “reform” the pension system.

Currently many Italians can retire with full benefits before they turn 60. If they are 57 years old or younger they can retire after working for 37 years. If they are older than 57 they can retire after 35 years of service. The government’s proposal would increase

the retirement age to 65 for men and 60 for women, and require 40 years of work for pension eligibility.

As in France, Germany, and other European countries, Rome is attempting to justify this assault on working people in Italy by claiming that workers are living too long and that the worldwide economic crisis dictates such cuts. If approved by parliament, the measure would go into effect in 2008. Big-business executives have said that the plan does not go far enough.

The government has also argued that Italy’s declining population has lowered revenue for the pension system. Bianca Pomeranzi, who participated in the strike, said the government could raise population levels by allowing more immigration into the country. But the Berlusconi government has tightened restrictions on immigration. In March 2002 some 50 im-



Strikers march in Naples, Italy, October 24.

migrants from Somalia drowned off the coast of Sicily while an Italian naval ship offered no assistance.

EU powers squeeze Iranian gov’t to allow nuclear inspections

Continued from front page

with Moscow’s help, are a subterfuge for developing nuclear weapons.

According to a BBC report Iranian delegates walked out of a meeting of the UN atomic agency in September that set a deadline of October 31 for Iran to comply with the conditions for inspections.

Following that meeting the governments of France, Germany and Russia have pressed Tehran to agree to the IAEA conditions in hopes of holding Washington at bay.

The Iranian government’s decision to agree to the conditions was announced October 21 after a meeting in Tehran between Iranian government officials and the foreign ministers of Britain, France, and Germany. It was announced 10 days before a deadline imposed by the IAEA for Tehran to sign an “Additional Protocol” to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, giving the United Nations agency unrestricted access to Iran’s nuclear facilities and requiring that Tehran halt, at least temporarily, the enrichment of uranium.

Bush said the initiative by the European

Union powers was “an effective approach.” Other White House officials insisted Washington will keep up the pressure on the Iranian regime for further concessions.

The French and German foreign ministers said they welcomed the joint statement with the Iranian government.

British foreign secretary Jack Straw was more cautious, telling the BBC that “the proof is not in the words of the communiqué but about the implementation and compliance with the agency.”

Hasan Rowhani, secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, said that Tehran had already begun implementing the protocols months ago when it extended cooperation to IAEA inspectors. Rowhani said his government had decided to sign and carry out the “Additional Protocol” so that it could continue to pursue development of its nuclear industry for energy purposes. “Another agreement is that Iran would voluntarily suspend its uranium-enriching program for a while to show its good will and build confidence with the European and other powers,” Rowhani said.

In exchange for Tehran’s agreement to

allow the inspections, London, Paris, and Berlin said in the joint statement with the Iranian government that they would ease Iran’s access to technology and supplies in a range of areas once they were satisfied that Tehran had complied with their demands.

The October 22 *Moscow Times* reported the Russian government had been “locked” in negotiations with Tehran for months over the return of waste fuel that would be produced by a nuclear power plant Moscow is helping to build in southern Iran. Washington had demanded that Moscow pull out of the joint project altogether.

On October 14, just three days before the head of the IAEA visited Iran, Moscow announced that plans to start up the plant next year would be delayed until 2005 due to technical reasons.

Of the three imperialist powers involved in the negotiations, Paris and Berlin maintained diplomatic and trade ties with Tehran following the 1979 revolution that overthrew the rule of the U.S.-backed shah. In 1997, for example, the French oil company, Total, signed a \$2 billion deal with Tehran for exploitation of the South Pars gas field. Its predecessor, Compagnie Francaise de Pétrole, operated in Iran from 1954 until the overthrow of the shah in 1979.

“What is essential now is that Iran needs to fully comply,” said White House press secretary Scott McClellan, “and end its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities.” Other Bush administration officials stated that Tehran must disclose additional information and take further steps by the October 31 deadline.

IAEA officials made the same point. Mark Gwozdecky, a spokesman for the agency, said Iran would be required to provide the agency with a full explanation of its past nuclear activities. The IAEA is scheduled to discuss whether Iran is in compliance on November 20. If the agency

finds that “suspicions” remain it could refer the matter to the UN Security Council for consideration of possible sanctions.

Just days after announcing that it would allow the inspections, the Tehran handed over documents about its nuclear capabilities to the UN agency. “We have submitted a report fully disclosing all our past activities in the nuclear field,” said Ali Akbar Salehi, Iran’s representative to the IAEA.

IAEA officials, however, zeroed in on the absence of information about the origin of traces of weapons-grade uranium found by the atomic agency’s inspectors in two plants.

Salehi said that U.S. trade sanctions, imposed shortly after the 1979 overthrow of the shah, meant that Iran frequently had to purchase components and materials through “intermediaries.” For that reason, he said, the origin of the enriched uranium traces may be impossible to determine.

“We should know the origin of materials and equipment to verify the Iranian statement that this was the result of contamination,” IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei insisted.

About 1,000 people taking part in Friday prayers October 24 demonstrated against the agreement to allow intrusive inspections. Earlier that week, 100 people had held a similar protest outside the site of the talks between Tehran and the three EU foreign ministers. One banner read: “Shame on your hypocrisy, imperialist ambassadors!”

Washington has also accused Iran of harboring several top leaders of al Qaeda and aiding groups in Iraq that are opposed to the U.S. occupation. Last month National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice said that the administration continues to insist that Iran must “transfer these people out.” Among the supposed al Qaeda leaders Washington says are in Iran is Osama bin Laden’s son.

THE MILITANT

Coverage from the picket lines

The battle for a union by Utah miners is an example of the resistance the bosses are facing to their assault on the wages, working conditions, and standard of living of the working class. Subscribe to the 'Militant' for reports from the picket lines of these and other labor struggles. Don't miss a single issue!



Locked-out miners at Co-op mine in Utah picket Oct. 3

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U.S. gov't makes gains in 'war on terrorism'

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

October was the best month for Washington in its "global war on terrorism" since the U.S. military victory in Baghdad last spring.

With a unanimous vote, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution October 16 legitimizing the U.S.-run regime in Iraq and asking UN member states to contribute military forces and funds for the reconstruction of the country.

The next day, the U.S. Congress approved with large bipartisan majorities the \$87 billion requested by the Bush administration to finance the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Days earlier, Tokyo had pledged more than \$5 billion and additional troops for Iraq, marking progress in the White House push to draw other governments into the U.S.-led occupation of the country. Such progress was further registered at a U.S.-organized "donors" conference in Madrid, Spain, October 23–24, where government representatives from 77 countries promised \$19 billion in loans and debt relief for Iraq's reconstruction.

At about the same time, the Iranian government also capitulated under pressure from Washington and its imperialist allies, announcing it would allow full, surprise UN inspections of its nuclear facilities (see article on front page).

In the middle of these developments, the U.S.-led NATO military alliance announced the launching of a standing rapid reaction force capable of being deployed anywhere in the world within five days.

Unanimous vote by UN Security Council

The October 16 UN Security Council resolution codified the existing fact of the U.S. protectorate in Iraq. The document said that the "Coalition Provisional Authority"—that is, the U.S.-imposed regime in Iraq—will exercise government authority in the country "until an internationally recognized, representative government" of Iraqis is established. Rejecting French and German proposals to amend the resolution to set a timetable for putting such a government in place, the document did not impose a time limit on the U.S.-run authority. The resolution also "urges Member States to contribute assistance under this United Nations mandate, including military forces."

Some 147,000 U.S. troops occupy Iraq now, backed up by 11,000 British soldiers. Smaller deployments from 30 other countries total about 13,000 troops.

The Security Council resolution states that the Iraqi governing council—comprised of 25 Iraqi politicians hand-picked by



October 15 inauguration ceremony in the Netherlands of the NATO rapid-reaction force. U.S. Marine officer Gen. James Jones (left), NATO's top commander, appointed British general Jack Deverell (center) to head the new elite military force.

Washington's top "civilian" administrator, Paul Bremer—"embodies the sovereignty of the State of Iraq during the transitional period" leading to an Iraqi government. The UN has a "vital role," states the document, in providing aid and promoting reconstruction and "representative government."

Among those voting for the resolution were the representatives of Paris and Berlin. Both had expressed disagreements with the U.S.-led invasion. Loans, trade, and investment deals with Saddam Hussein's regime under the previous UN sanctions delivered lucrative returns to the wealthy of both countries, and promised further riches.

Paris, however, voted for a May 19 UN Security Council resolution that lifted the UN sanctions on Iraq and recognized the Coalition Provisional Authority. Since then, the German government has shifted tack, taking a less critical stance toward the U.S.-led occupation than its French ally.

The most stunning vote in favor of the U.S.-sponsored resolution came from the Syrian government. Only 12 days earlier, on October 4, Israeli jets had bombed a target near Damascus, claiming that it served as a training ground for Palestinian "terrorist" organizations. "I have consistently said that Israel should defend itself," said U.S. president George Bush in response to Tel Aviv's attack—the first by Israeli forces on Syria since a war in 1973. As Israeli leaders refused to rule out more such assaults, Washington threatened to veto a resolution the Syrian delegate presented to the UN Security Council condemning the raid, effectively sinking the proposal by Damascus.

This turn of events emboldened the Zionist rulers of Israel to extend their attacks

on Palestinians. Four days after the October 16 UN Security Council resolution, Israeli forces killed 11 people in a series of air attacks in the Gaza Strip. Tel Aviv has dismissed a UN General Assembly resolution condemning its construction of a wall between Israel and the West Bank, on a zigzag path that cuts deeply into Palestinian lands. On October 25, Israeli officials announced that they are building almost 300 new housing units in the West Bank—a calculated slap in the face to the Palestinians, whose land is gobbled up by such settlements.

Congress approves \$87 billion

The day after the Security Council vote, the U.S. Congress overwhelmingly approved Bush's request for \$87 billion to fund the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. Bush had said that 75 percent would cover "ongoing military and intelligence operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere."

The vote at the House of Representatives was 303-125. At 87-12, the Senate margin was even wider.

After these two victories, U.S. officials increased pressure on other governments to pony up with funds and troops.

At the October 23–24 Madrid "donors' conference," the Japanese government confirmed its pledge of \$5 billion over four years, making Tokyo the biggest bankroller of Iraq's occupation after Washington. Tokyo will also send 600 troops to serve under U.S. officers by January. Other imperialist powers pledging funds include London, at \$496 million; Madrid, with \$300 million; and Rome and Ottawa, \$230 million each.

U.S. officials racked up promises of

money from a number of semicolonial governments in the Mideast, including Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia. The latter pledged \$1 billion in loans and aid, and stated it was ready to negotiate a reduction in Baghdad's \$24 billion debt.

The Iranian government said it would allow the occupation regime to export Iraqi oil through its ports, and would send electricity and gas the other way.

Faced with these victories, opinion columnists from liberals writing for the *New York Times* to rightists like Patrick Buchanan bended to the White House course on Iraq, even if grudgingly.

New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristoff, who spoke against the U.S. conduct of the war, wrote October 15, "I believe that President Bush was wrong to go into Iraq, but he's right about staying there." His column was titled "Holding Our Noses."

Buchanan, the ultrarightist politician and commentator, dramatically personified this shift in attitudes toward the Bush administration's course. Writing on October 15, he scoffed at the alleged impact of Washington's "shock and awe" strategy. "Iran and North Korea appear undeterred by our smashing of Iraq and even more resolved to acquire atomic weapons," he said.

"The imperial project" of Bush's advisers, he continued, "to erect an American empire in Arabia and impose democracy on reluctant Muslims—is dead."

Five days later, after the UN and Congressional votes, Buchanan changed tune. "George W. Bush seems to have weathered his summer squall and to be well-positioned to do what his father failed to do: win a second term," he said. "A consensus seems to be emerging. Those who opposed the war do not want to cut and run and leave Iraq to chaos and civil war.... The consensus appears to be this: America will not send fresh new divisions to fight a 5- or 10-year war. Iraq will be helped onto its feet and power transferred as soon as possible."

NATO launches intervention force

NATO inaugurated its rapid-reaction force one day before the Security Council vote. The so-called Response Force will be comprised of 20,000 highly trained troops ready to respond immediately to orders from the NATO command, which is dominated by Washington. This was the second major step toward expanding NATO's jurisdiction beyond Europe and around the world. The first was when the Atlantic imperialist military alliance took control of Afghanistan's occupation earlier this year, a move sanctioned by the UN Security Council October 13.

The announcement was preceded by NATO's ministerial war-game meeting at Colorado Springs. "We need real, deployable soldiers, not paper armies," NATO secretary general George Robertson told that gathering.

The Response Force will start with 9,000 troops, the largest number coming from Spain, who will begin maneuvers in Turkey in November. Other contributors are Paris, Berlin, and Washington, which will send 300 soldiers along with a ship and aircraft. British general Jack Deverell will head it up.

According to the *International Herald Tribune*, NATO's top commander, U.S. Marine officer Gen. James Jones, said the force would "insert military forces into a deteriorating situation earlier in a crisis, with more speed, at greater ranges, with more sustainability than ever before."

Washington will now push other NATO governments to adopt American speed in deploying their forces under U.S. command to fight "terrorism." Although these governments "have moved swiftly to set up the force," the *Tribune* continued, "NATO officials say some now need to streamline political procedures to prevent delays in deployment," which is supposed to be done as quickly as within five days. "They are particularly concerned by rules in Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands and Turkey, which require parliamentary approval to send troops into action."

The move will intensify interimperialist competition, as it counters the French-German initiative for a European Union-based rapid-reaction military force. It increases the likelihood that divisions among the main competing imperialist powers could deteriorate to an armed conflict in the future.

Top Pentagon general says U.S. is waging war on terrorism as a 'Christian nation' against 'Satan'

BY SAM MANUEL

U.S. president George Bush and other Republican politicians have taken their distance from remarks of a high-ranking U.S. general who likened the government's "war against terrorism" to a war by a "Christian nation" conducted in the name of Jesus.

The controversy followed reports on the October 22 "NBC Nightly News" and in the *Los Angeles Times* a day later citing Lt. Gen. William Boykin, an evangelical Christian, speaking in uniform to church audiences over the last two years.

Boykin is a highly decorated Special Operations officer who was recently confirmed for the appointment of Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence. He heads a special unit at the Pentagon in charge of tracking down Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, and others on Washington's hot list of "terrorists."

Speaking at the Good Shepherd Church in Sandy, Oregon, June 21, Boykin said that radical Muslim groups in the Middle East hate the United States because "we're a Christian nation, because our foundation and our roots are Judeo-Christian.... That means we've got a commitment to Israel. That means it's a commitment we're never going to abandon.... Our religion came from Judaism, and therefore these radicals will hate us forever."

In another appearance, Boykin said "the enemy that has come against our nation is a spiritual enemy. His name is Satan."

The general added that our "spiritual enemy will only be defeated if we come against them in the name of Jesus." Boykin declared that Bush "is in the White House because God put him there," and that "we in the army of God... have been raised for such a time as this."

Boykin also spoke at the First Baptist church in Daytona, Florida, January 28. In that appearance he described a battle between U.S. military forces and guerrillas in Somalia, largely populated by Muslims. Referring to Osman Atto, a Somali whom U.S. troops eventually captured and Boykin ordered held in a Sea Land container, the Pentagon officer said, "I knew my god was bigger than his. I knew that my god was a real god and his was an idol."

The timing of the publication of Boykin's remarks was somewhat embarrassing for Bush who was on a tour of Asia that included a stop in Indonesia—a country with the world's largest Muslim population. Bush told a meeting of Muslim clerics in that country that Boykin's statements didn't reflect his views nor those of his administration. U.S. national security advisor Condoleezza Rice commented, "This is not a war between religions. No one should describe it as such."

Republican senator Lincoln Chafee called the remarks "deplorable." Sen. John Warner, a Republican who heads the Senate Armed Services Committee along with Carl Levin, his Democratic counter-

part, sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld asking the department to conduct an internal investigation of Boykin's remarks.

Rumsfeld, however, has so far refused to dissociate from the statements and praised Boykin as "an officer that has an outstanding record."

Pentagon spokesman Larry DiRita added, "Nobody's thinking about asking him to step aside."

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, quipped that "at first blush" he did not think Boykin's remarks had violated any military rules.

Under growing pressure, Boykin issued a statement of apology reportedly written with the "assistance" of the Pentagon's media and legal staffs. "I do believe that radical extremists have tried to use Islam as a cause to attack America," the statement said. "They are not true followers of Islam... they are terrorists, much like the so-called 'Christians' of the white supremacy groups."

Asked about the Pentagon's hand in writing the apology, Rumsfeld snapped back, "It is not our statement. It is his statement... And that is what it is."

Whether Boykin will be able to hold onto his job is yet to be determined. His remarks have been condemned in editorials, articles, and news reports throughout the Middle East and Asia and by prominent Muslim groups in the United States.

Pathfinder bookstores push 6-month sales effort

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—At the half way mark in the campaign by supporters of Pathfinder Press to increase the publisher's sales by 10 percent over the second half of 2003, September registered a solid month with worldwide sales totaling more than \$22,000. This was up substantially from the \$15,600 sold in August, and puts the international goal within reach, which will require average monthly sales of nearly \$22,600 through the end of the year.

The six-month campaign is being led by Socialist Workers Party branches and Communist Leagues internationally whose members organize Pathfinder bookstores in their areas and distribute Pathfinder books and pamphlets in their workplaces. The biggest challenge over the remaining three months of the campaign will be meeting the goal to increase sales by Pathfinder bookstores.

It is a joint campaign with supporters of the international communist movement organized in the Pathfinder Printing Project who, in cities around the world, are organizing volunteers to promote Pathfinder books through visits to buyers for commercial bookstores, by encouraging university professors to adopt titles for their courses, and at book fairs.

Joe Swanson, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in Des Moines, is working with supporters there to make visits in the region. In a phone interview, Swanson mentioned that two supporters, Joanne Murphy and Andrew Pulley, were making a two-day trip to stores within a hundred mile radius of Des Moines. They are visiting bookstores in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids among others.

Swanson recently visited the buyer for Grinnell College, about 50 miles outside Des Moines. It was a first-time meeting. On previous occasions, representatives had only been able to leave some catalogs. Swanson was following up because last November the buyer had ordered more than a dozen Pathfinder titles, including *The Founding of the Socialist Workers Party and October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis As Seen From Cuba*, by Tomás Diez Acosta.

Pathfinder Bookstores around the world also had significantly increased sales in September. Janice Lynn, a meat packer in Washington, D.C., who tracks the sales of Pathfinder Bookstores in the United States, reported total sales of more than \$9,000 in September—\$2,000 short of the monthly goal. Lynn is also director of the Pathfinder Bookstore in her city.

In an October 16 interview Gale Shangold, a member of the Printing Project's sales committee, said, "We did well last month, including sales work at book fairs and festivals. Now the challenge is to follow through on the new opportunities created by the fruitful work done at these book fairs." To do this she said volunteers organized an October 18–25 target week focused on getting back to the many buyers, bookstore owners and others in the business who were met at the book fairs.

"We should never underestimate the work of regularly following up with bookstores we have been trying to get orders with," Tom Headley, an Amtrak railroad engineer, told a group of fellow Pathfinder sales volunteers here. Headley reported a bookstore that had been visited for years but never ordered placed an order for \$900 last month.

Maceo Dixon, who helps to ship orders from Pathfinder's Atlanta distribution center, said orders are showing an increase. "Last month, for example," said Dixon, "we shipped orders to 30 campuses." Orders from Los Angeles South West College and Harvard University totaled nearly \$3,000, he said.

Dixon and Shangold also said that sales opportunities for Pathfinder's Spanish-language titles continue to increase. "We have noticed in the book trade magazines

more reports of large chains like Barnes and Noble that want to expand the titles they carry in Spanish," Shangold said. She reported that a large Spanish-language distributor recently placed a \$3,000 order, getting the sales campaign off to a good start in October.

"The Pathfinder web site, pathfinderpress.com, has increased our ability to reach working people interested in revolutionary politics around the world," noted Dixon. Last month the distribution center received an inquiry from Zimbabwe and an order from Singapore.

Book festivals

Pathfinder sales teams at book fairs in France, Spain, Sweden, and the United States anchored the increased sales in September.

More than \$1,300 worth of books were sold September 21 from the booth set up by the local Pathfinder Bookstore at the annual New York Is Book Country street fair and from a nearby Socialist Workers Party campaign table. Top sellers were 13 copies of different issues of the Marxist magazine *New International* and the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional*, and eight copies of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* by Jack Barnes. At the Los Angeles Latino Book and Family Festival, more than \$360 in Pathfinder titles was purchased. Several of those who bought the socialist literature were also interested in reading about the campaign of Joel Britton, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of California.

At the Fête l'Humanité, a Paris festival in mid-September sponsored by the French Communist Party, 31 titles by Marx, Engels, and Lenin were purchased at the Pathfinder booth. French-language editions of *Social-*

ism and Man in Cuba by Che Guevara; *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Thomas Sankara; and *The History of American Trotskyism* by SWP founder James P. Cannon were among the 98 titles sold. Two high school students from the industrial town of Valenciennes in northern France purchased three pamphlets by Marx and Lenin as well as *Socialism and Man in Cuba*.

This year marked a record sale for the 11 years Pathfinder has had a presence at the Gothenburg book fair in Sweden, reported Dag Tirsén and Andreas Bergenheim. Fairgoers bought 105 titles along with eight subscriptions to the *Militant* and three to *Perspectiva Mundial*. Books and pamphlets on the Cuban Revolution also led the sales with 35 titles sold. The book fair featured a debate between a leader of the Swedish International Liberal Center, which opposes the Cuban Revolution, and the editor of the magazine of the Cuba-Sweden Friendship Association. Many fair visitors stopped by the Pathfinder booth to get books presenting view of leaders of the Cuban Revolution.

The recent political developments in Sweden were also among the topics discussed at the Pathfinder booth. Swedish prime minister Göran Persson, supported by a dominant sector of large Swedish



Militant/Dag Tirsén

Pathfinder booth draws a crowd at bookfair in Gothenburg, Sweden, September 25–28.

capitalists, had just suffered a defeat in a referendum for the adoption of the euro as the country's currency. As a result of this discussion one visitor purchased *Europe and America—Two Speeches on Imperialism* by Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the October 1917 Russian Revolution.

During the book fair Pathfinder volunteers in Gothenburg also set up tables in working-class districts, at the university, and outside a Volvo auto factory. At the end of each of two of his round trips, a bus driver stopped by a table set up at a tram station. He said he wanted "something basic about socialism." At the end of the third trip he emerged from the bus, money in hand, and purchased *Capitalism's World Disorder* by Jack Barnes.

Iranian publisher releases Farsi edition of 'U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War'

BY MA'MUD SHIRVANI

A translation into Farsi of "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War" has been published as a book by an Iranian publisher, Talaye Porsoo. The nearly 300-page book is the translation of the lead article by Jack Barnes in *New International* no. 11, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory.

Since its publication in Iran last spring, the book has received prominent attention in the Iranian media. Three major Tehran dailies, *Ettelaat*, *Hamshahri*, and *Iran*, included the book in their columns announcing new and noteworthy books. Along with these announcements the dailies carried a color photo of the book cover. As in the original cover of the *New International* issue, the Farsi-language book cover carries a reproduction of the Pathfinder Mural. The daily *Iran* also listed the table of contents of the book.

The Tehran monthly *Andeeshe Jamehe* (Social Thought), in its column introducing new books, included the following brief review of the Talaye Porsoo title in the August-September issue:

"Barnes wrote this book thirteen years ago. Thinking about what has happened in the world in this period, and the conjuncture we are going through now, helps us appreciate the depth of analysis and understand the basic global trends.

"Five years ago Barnes added footnotes to the original text to further explain some of the points. In these notes he assessed how the original work has withstood the test of events in the eight years since it was written. The book helps us understand the present world and take the necessary steps in the turbulent world facing us."

The publication of the Farsi-language *U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War* and the response it has received in Iran are an indication of the interest in a scientific understanding of the world and social issues. Following its brief review, the *Andeeshe Jamehe* column also carried an announcement for another new book. According to the monthly, *Women in Society* is published by Entesharate Negah

and contains translations of works by Alexandra Kollontai, Frederick Engels, Clara Zetkin, and Evelyn Reed. Reed was the author of *Problems of Women's Liberation* and *Woman's Evolution*, both published by Pathfinder.

Talaye Porsoo has published two other books based on the lead articles by Jack Barnes in issue Numbers 7 and 10 of *New International*, titled, respectively, *Washington's Assault on Iraq: The Opening Guns of World War III* and *Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War*. Over the last 10 years, Talaye Porsoo has published 11 other

books that are translations of Pathfinder titles. Some have gone through more than one printing. All Talaye Porsoo titles can be obtained from www.pathfinderpress.com.

Another Iranian publisher, Entesharate Hashemi, published a Farsi translation of *Woman's Evolution* in 1984. In the last three years, Nashre Golâzin has published Farsi translations of *Problems of Women's Liberation* and *Cosmetics, Fashions and the Exploitation of Women* by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, and Mary-Alice Waters. These two titles are also available at the Pathfinder web site.

U.S. border cops to use pilotless aircraft along Mexican border

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

The Department of Homeland Security has begun tests of pilotless aircraft over the Sonora desert in Arizona near the Mexican border, U.S. officials reported October 10. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), such as the Predator drone used by the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan, are under consideration for patrolling the border.

The aircraft, which are being deployed out of Fort Huachuca and Gila Bend, Arizona, can watch over a target for 24 hours at a time and fly for hundreds of miles. They are the latest example of the military-style hardware and techniques to be used on the U.S.-Mexico border.

U.S. officials have argued for the use of these aircraft saying they could be used to police the border for "drug traffickers, illegal immigrants, and terrorists."

Department of Homeland Security head Thomas Ridge told a congressional committee in May that the drones could be in use by the end of the year to patrol the border. In military operations, drones have been equipped with cameras, sensors, communication equipment, and missiles.

"We need to equip [Border Patrol agents] with this kind of technology if our expectations legitimately are for them to combat terrorism," Ridge said.

Mario Villarreal, a spokesman of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, told the Reuters news agency that the drones would help beef up the immigration police presence on the border. These aircraft "have played an important role for the military in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. On November 3 of last year the CIA unleashed a missile attack by a Predator drone on a car traveling through northwestern Yemen, killing all six people inside. U.S. officials labeled the dead men "Al Qaeda operatives." Washington has also used Predators in Bosnia in the mid-1990s and as part of its bombing assault against Afghanistan two years ago.

In April, Senate Armed Services Committee chairman John Warner wrote to President George Bush saying that such drones could be used to "monitor long stretches of border, nuclear power plants, pipelines and dams" as well as to "augment Coast Guard patrols of the U.S. coastline," CBS News reported.

Order revolutionary books on the Internet!

pathfinderpress.com

Push needed in sub drive

BY PATRICK O’NEILL

“I don’t care if they have green cards or not,” a worker in Craig, Colorado, told *Militant* distributors. “The company treated everybody like dirt. They really need a union there.” He was referring to United Mine Workers supporters at the Co-op coal company in Huntington, Utah, who are fighting to organize a union in the mine. Many of those leading this important labor fight are undocumented workers from Mexico.

“The guy knew what he was talking about, since he had worked at the mine a while back,” Joe Swanson told the *Militant* October 26. Swanson had flown in from Des Moines, Iowa, to join a team of volunteers traveling across Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado to sell the socialist press at mine portals, on campuses, and in working-class communities.

One Co-op veteran and construction worker in Huntington told Swanson that the Co-op miners today “get paid 12 cents more than I did, and that was 30 years ago.” He took two back issues of the *Militant* and some subscription blanks to show to friends.

Over two weeks, the team sold 16 *Militant* subscriptions toward the international goal

of 950 *Militant* subscriptions, 400 *PM* subscriptions, and 400 Pathfinder books to those who subscribe. While sales of *Perspectiva Mundial* are on schedule, book sales need to be stepped up, and international totals for the *Militant* are 5 percent behind where they should be at the halfway point of the eight-week drive.

Another group of volunteers carried out a similar effort in the Midwest on the weekend of October 18–19, selling 17 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and four to the *Militant*. Edwin Fruit reported from Des Moines that on October 18 teams “went to working-class neighborhoods in Sioux City, Iowa, and South Sioux City, Nebraska. In both, *Militant* supporters spoke to workers from the Tyson Foods beef cut-and-kill plant in Dakota City, Nebraska. Several said they expect the Tyson bosses to demand wage cuts and increases in health-care deductions as part of a new contract, due in August of next year.”

Similar demands by Tyson at its plant in Jefferson, Wisconsin, sparked a strike on February 28 by several hundred members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 538. The workers are still walking the picket lines today.

Team members got out the socialist publications in several Iowa cities the next day. UFCW members at a Tyson plant in Cherokee have been following the Wisconsin strike closely, said Fruit. The *Militant* supporters found themselves involved in wide-ranging discussions “covering the state of the unions today, the plight of family farmers, and whether supporting a so-called progressive Democrat in the 2004 elections to ‘defeat Bush’ is the way forward.”

On October 25, sales campaigners set up a number of literature tables at a Washington, D.C., protest against the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq. Romina Green reported that 27 people among the crowd of 10,000 bought *Militant* subscriptions, while participants also purchased \$803 worth of Pathfinder books.



Militant/Ikona Gersh

***Militant* sales team members talk to miners as they leave work at the Deserado Mine near Rangely, Colorado.**

Following the protest, the Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party sponsored an Open House. “The speakers were Olga Rodríguez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council in New York, and Bill Schmitt of the Young Socialists,” said John Hawkins, who helped organize the event. “Thirty-four people came. One young guy from Minnesota bought a copy of *Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Unions* by Jack Barnes along with his introductory *Militant* subscription.”

‘Militant’ launches new sub program

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

“Sub Manager went ‘live’ for the first time last week when it was used for the *Militant* mailing,” Art Young wrote to members of an international team of *Militant* supporters October 19. “This marks a high point of our project.” Young heads up the work of a team of supporters of the communist movement who, working together over the Internet, created a new computer system for maintaining the subscriber lists for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. Other members of the team include: George Fyson in New Zealand, Tom O’Brien in Minnesota, and Greg Preston in North Carolina. Warren Simons in New York also helped with aspects of the project.

The new subscription program was used again October 22 to produce the mailing labels for the delivery of subscriptions to both of the socialist publications.

The adoption of a new program became necessary when the *Militant* and *PM* staff moved into new offices in April of this year and began using new computer equipment. In the transition period between the shutdown of the old system and going live with the new one, the sub lists were entered on computer spreadsheets.

Sub Manager is the name the *Militant* has adopted for this new program that will help the staff and volunteers serve our readers more efficiently and in a manner that will minimize error. After volunteers enter new subscriptions, renewals to the paper, and any other corrections, the program has the capability to sort the subscriptions into computer files by type of mail service and country, and to produce a separate list of names of those whose subscriptions will expire soon, as well as to drop off

the active list those whose subscriptions have run out. These files are then run through a mailing program to produce the labels that volunteers place on the papers for the regular mailing every Wednesday afternoon.

The new program also enables volunteers to assemble the raw data in a variety of forms, called reports, for use by the *Militant*, *PM*, and their distributors around the world. Reports can list subscribers by state, union, and campus, and sort those with active subscriptions and those whose subs have expired. As George Fyson from New Zealand said in an e-mail message to other team members, “The number of reports we can have is almost unlimited. Any statistics that are useful can be added as new reports.”

In response to Art Young’s October 19 note, Warren Simons wrote back that he had discussed the program with the volunteers who do the bulk of the subscription entry work. He reported that they “were very excited with the new program and related that it was a great step forward. They were able to recruit another supporter who is not very familiar with how to use computers, and she reports how easy it was to do.”

“On behalf of the *Militant* I congratulate Art and his team for the diligent work they did,” said *Militant* editor Argiris Malapanis. “I am sure our readers will appreciate the efficient use of the program by the *Militant* staff to ensure timely and regular delivery of the paper to subscribers.”

Subscribers to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* should contact the business manager if they have any questions or problems with the delivery of the publications as we put Sub Manager into use.

Rumsfeld presents memo on ‘war on terror’

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

At an October 23 press conference at the Pentagon, U.S. secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld presented publicly an internal memorandum he had sent to four Department of Defense officials. The memo had been leaked to the press earlier. It was first published in *USA Today* the day before the Pentagon news conference.

“It is pretty clear that the coalition can win in Afghanistan and Iraq in one way or another, but it will be a long, hard slog,” Rumsfeld said in the memo.

“DoD [Department of Defense] has been organized, trained and equipped to fight big armies, navies, and air forces,” Rumsfeld continued. “It is not possible to change the DoD enough to successfully fight the global war on terror; an alternative might be to try to fashion a new institution, either within DoD or elsewhere—one that seamlessly focuses the capabilities of several departments and agencies on this key problem.”

The Secretary of Defense asked a range of questions of the four people he addressed the memo to: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Marine Gen. Peter Pace, and Defense Undersecretary for Policy Douglas Feith.

“We are having mixed results with Al Qaeda, although we have put considerable pressure on them—nonetheless, a great many remain at large,” Rumsfeld said. While making progress in capturing or killing the top 55 officials in Saddam Hussein’s regime, Washington has been slow in tracking down the Taliban leaders deposed in Afghanistan, he stated.

“Does the DoD need to think through new ways to organize, train, equip, and focus to deal with the global war on terror?” Rumsfeld asked. “Are the changes we have and are making too modest and incremental?”

My impression is that we have not yet made truly bold moves.”

‘Does CIA need a new finding?’

“Does CIA need a new finding?” Rumsfeld asked. A “finding” is an order signed by the President, which is kept secret, authorizing the CIA or Special Operations forces to go into a country and kill someone or carry out other covert operations. U.S. president George Bush issued such findings authorizing the CIA to kill or capture Al Qaeda leaders in Afghanistan prior to the U.S. assault and occupation of the country and in a similar operation in Yemen in November 2002.

According to several panelists on the TV talk show The McLaughlin Group, a “new finding” is likely to be issued for operations in Pakistan, where the government is not fully cooperating with Washington in handing over Al Qaeda leaders who are reportedly functioning there. Another possible target is Syria.

At the Pentagon press conference Rumsfeld stated he stood by every word in his memorandum. “I re-read the memo in the paper, and I thought, ‘Not bad,’” he said, with a grin. “From the beginning we’ve said that this global war on terror is a tough one. It’s going to take a long time. It’s going to take cooperation of a lot of countries.”

There was not even a hint of criticism of Rumsfeld’s memo—or the way he presented it to the public—from Bush or anyone else in the White House.

Questioned about his depiction of the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan as a “long, hard slog,” Rumsfeld cited a dictionary definition of the word “slog” as “to hit or strike hard, to drive with blows, to assail violently.”

“And that’s precisely what the U.S. has been doing and intends to continue to do,” he said. “It’s not only the Oxford Dictionary’s preferred definition. It’s mine.”

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Fall Subscription Drive September 27–November 23: Week 4 of 8							
Country	Militant Goal	Sold	%	PM Goal	Sold	Book Goal	Sold
NEW ZEALAND							
Auckland	15	9	60%	1	0	5	2
Christchurch	12	4	33%	1	0	6	0
N.Z. total	27	13	48%	2	0	11	2
UNITED STATES							
Omaha	18	14	78%	38	21	15	7
Boston	35	26	74%	30	22	25	19
Des Moines	25	16	64%	12	18	15	8
New York	70	42	60%	35	26	40	22
Utah	10	6	60%	10	7	8	1
Tucson	7	4	57%	2	1		0
Philadelphia	30	17	57%	7	5	7	8
NE Pennsylvania	20	11	55%	8	0	10	1
San Francisco	50	27	54%	20	6	40	9
Western Col.	15	8	53%	10	4		0
Newark	55	29	53%	20	10	25	21
Houston	25	13	52%	10	6	20	11
Seattle	25	13	52%	6	1	10	3
Detroit	25	12	48%	8	3	15	4
Cleveland	15	7	47%	5	4	10	5
Los Angeles	60	27	45%	30	14	35	8
Chicago	40	17	43%	25	14	25	5
Pittsburgh	25	10	40%	2	3	12	0
Washington	25	10	40%	12	4	12	2
Atlanta	40	14	35%	17	10	25	8
Twin Cities	45	14	31%	35	9	15	0
Tampa	20	6	30%	8	1	10	1
Birmingham	18	3	17%	3	2	5	8
Miami	42	3	7%	12	3	21	0
U.S. total	740	349	47%	365	194	400	151
UNITED KINGDOM							
Cent. Scotland	8	4	50%	0	0	4	4
London	25	10	40%	5	3	10	8
UK total	33	14	42%	5	3	10	12
SWEDEN							
Stockholm	8	3	38%	5	3	5	3
Gothenburg	10	4	40%	2	2	5	3
SWEDEN Total	18	7	39%	7	5	10	6
CANADA							
Montreal	12	7	58%	6	3	15	3
Toronto	25	6	24%	5	2	15	1
Vancouver	30	8	27%	5	2	15	4
CANADA total	67	21	31%	16	7	45	8
AUSTRALIA	30	9	30%	5	1	15	3
ICELAND	15	3	20%	1	0	10	3
Int'l totals	930	416	45%	401	210	501	182
Goal/Should be	950	475	50%	400	200	500	250
IN THE UNIONS							
	Militant Goal			PM Goal		Book Goal	
AUSTRALIA							
AMIEU	4	0	0%			1	0
CANADA							
UFCW	10	0	0%	2	1	8	0
UNITE	3	1	33%	4	0	4	0
Total	13	1	8%	6	1	12	0
ICELAND							
Hlif	1	0	0%			1	
NEW ZEALAND							
MWU	2	0	0%	0		1	0
NDU	2	1	50%	0		1	0
Total	4	1	25%	0		2	0
SWEDEN							
Livs	3	0	0%	2	1	3	0
UNITED STATES							
UMWA	20	7	35%	3	2	8	5
UNITE	25	7	28%	22	6	12	1
UFCW	50	11	22%	75	32	30	7
Total	95	25	26%	75	40	30	13
AMIEU—Australasian Meat Industry Employees’ Union; Hlif—General Workers Union in Hafnarfjörður; LIVS—Food Workers Union; MUA—Maritime Union of Australia; MWU—Meat Workers Union; NDU—National Distribution Union; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America.							

Literacy campaign

Continued from front page

is based on the Cuban literacy campaign that largely eradicated illiteracy in that Caribbean nation in 1960–61, shortly after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution.

Over the last four months, Mission Robinson has become a reality in the poorest working-class neighborhoods of Caracas and most other cities, the indigenous communities of the Amazon and the Orinoco River deltas, the plains of Apure and Barinas, and mountainous rural areas. Literacy classes are also being held in prisons.

On the hills of Las Trincheras

Las Trincheras is a rural community of several thousand in the mountains about 20 miles north of Valencia, Venezuela's third-largest city and one of the country's largest industrial centers. Réngel commutes there by public transportation because the distance from her university makes it possible—"a 45-minute ride," as she put it.

The majority of volunteers teaching literacy classes also commute from where they live because they are mostly assigned to go to areas near their residence. There are volunteers in more remote parts of the country who have moved to rural areas and live with the peasants, Réngel and others told us. This is one difference with the Cuban literacy campaign of the early

1960s, when most of the 100,000 volunteers moved and lived with the peasants and other working people they were teaching how to read and write.

We asked Réngel about a news clip we had watched on Globovisión, one of the main opposition TV stations, two days earlier showing a group of students who had volunteered for Mission Robinson staging a protest. These students were demanding the government pay them the stipend they had promised or they would drop out from the second phase of the program.

Réngel said this did not surprise her. "Like everything else in Venezuela, whatever we try to do is full of contradictions," she stated.

From the initial 116,000 volunteers who signed up to teach literacy classes, some have left the program. "The number now is somewhere between 70,000 and 100,000," Réngel said. "I know a number from my university who dropped out once they saw the conditions in rural areas where they were assigned to teach."

'I don't do it for the money'

Réngel said the stipend promised by the government was 120,000 bolivars (\$80) per month. The volunteers were told from the beginning there might be delays in getting paid. "In the three months I've been teach-



Granma photos by Ricardo López Hevia

Left: Piaroa Indian tribe members make casava—a bread-like substance made from yucca—in the Amazon jungle, southern Venezuela, in July. The literacy campaign has reached most of the country's remote areas like this. Right: Emiliano Luzardo (on left), an elder of the Hivi indigenous tribe in Sabaneta de Guayabal, deep in Venezuela's Amazon jungle, takes part in literacy class with Venezuelan volunteer.

ing classes, I've only gotten the stipend once," she said. "But I don't do it for the money. I do it for the people of Las Trincheras and for me as a human being."

Réngel said her first assignment was to go to Las Trincheras with other volunteers and do a literacy census going house-to-house. She was assigned to teach the class at Cerro Las Flores, a section of Las Trincheras where about 1,000 people live.

The volunteer teachers had to find a location to hold the class. "I picked the house of Betty and Alexander, because we could use both the living room and the porch and our hosts were particularly welcoming," she said. Betty Zequiera is a janitor at the nearby thermal springs, and her husband Alexander Gallardo is a truck driver.

We walked up the hill about a quarter mile to get there. The class on the afternoon of October 7 was held in the patio of the house, with the surrounding green hills in full view, because lighting is better. They had finished the first phase of the program in late September, in which people learned the alphabet, numbers, and received initial reading lessons. About 300,000 people nationwide graduated from the first phase September 21. Those classes were held in Zequiera and Gallardo's living room, we were told, because they needed to use a TV and VCR.

"Most of the materials—the TV, VCR, videos, and the booklets—came from Cuba," Réngel said. Notebooks, pencils, blackboard and chalk, and school uniforms for children are provided by Venezuela's Ministry of Education.

The class is held daily, except weekends, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Twenty of the 30 people who have signed up were at the class October 7. Participation usually averages at about 25 students, we were told. Five were adults, from their 30s to their 60s, most of them peasants. The rest were children or teenagers, from 6 to 15 years old. A number of the older children said they dropped out of the public school because their parents were so low on funds they could not afford even a notebook or a pencil and they often had to work to help the family survive. "I went to school for three months, but then I dropped out," said Yomaira Mejías, 15. "My parents were not working and they couldn't even give me a notebook."

Réngel said that it is hard to have classes with adults and children of various ages all together, but it was the only way to get started with the program. The goal, she said, is to bring everyone up to fourth-grade level of reading, writing, and arithmetic within a year. Then most children will be assigned to regular schools, while adults will be able to sign up for other education programs to continue improving their skills.

After the session was over, *Militant* reporters interviewed most of the participants. Carlos Jiménez, 47, said he now tries to make a living through subsistence agriculture. "I used to work in construction, but there are no jobs now," he said. Others in the neighborhood used to work in factories in Valencia but are unemployed now. Manuel Sánchez, 58, said he was a carpenter who took early retirement because of an injury on the job. Both

Sánchez and Jiménez said they had gone to school decades ago, but then dropped out and forgot how to read and write since they did not use the skills. It has now come back to them.

All those interviewed said they would do anything to stop the opposition from toppling Chávez. The nationalist president was elected in 1998, and reelected two years later, with huge popular support against the traditional capitalist parties. Since 2001, when his government passed a new agrarian reform law and other legislation that cut into the prerogatives of finance capital, the Venezuelan bourgeoisie has gone out of its way to oust the president, with Washington's blessings. After a military coup attempt and a two-month employers' lockout failed due to massive mobilizations by working people, the opposition has focused on organizing a referendum to recall Chávez (see article below).

Venezuela's closer ties with Cuba, including the program that has brought some 2,000 Cuban doctors to the country's poorest neighborhoods (see last week's issue) and Mission Robinson, are part of the reason for the hostility of local capitalists and landlords towards the Chávez administration.

Opposition charges 'indoctrination'

An article in the opposition daily *El Universal*, published on October 7, the day *Militant* reporters visited Las Trincheras, was titled: "Segunda Torres, former head of planning for INCE: 'Mission Robinson is a great electoral ploy.'" INCE is the National Institute for Educational Cooperation, which is now in charge of many aspects of the literacy program.

"The literacy plan is a great electoral ploy," Torres was quoted saying in *El Universal*. "It's a question of numbers. A goal of teaching one million to read and write, more than 100,000 literacy teachers—who receive stipends, food, and credits; this will obviously translate into votes for Chávez."

In an earlier article published in the June 26 *El Nacional*, the second major opposition daily, the president of Venezuela's Teachers Federation charged that with Mission Robinson the government



Militant/Camilo Catalán (inset); Granma/Ricardo López Hevia (above)

Enrique Ramos (above, right), head of Venezuela's Youth Institute, and other Venezuelans at Caracas airport June 20 returning from trip to Cuba after consultations with Cuban institutions on launching Mission Robinson. Cuba donated all TV sets and VCRs for literacy campaign, such as the one shown on top (inset) during literacy class at Barrio Nuevo Chapellín in Caracas, October 5.

Venezuela election board sets dates for recall referendum petition drive

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

On October 15, Venezuela's National Elections Council set November 28–December 1 as the dates for a petition drive to determine whether a referendum to recall President Hugo Chávez will be held. The country's pro-imperialist opposition that has been trying to overthrow the Chávez government had requested the petitioning two weeks earlier.

The opposition needs more than 2.4 million signatures to request the recall referendum. Each signature has to be verified with the fingerprint of the signer.

According to the National Elections Council (CEN), the earliest a presidential recall vote could be held would be March 2004.

The referendum effort is backed by the Organization of American States and the U.S. government, which supported an April 2002 coup attempt and a two-month employers' lockout last December–January aimed at toppling Chávez. Both efforts by the Venezuelan capitalist class and its backers in the United States failed in the face of massive mobilizations by working people.

After these debacles, the opposition has focused on organizing a recall referendum. On September 12 the CEN rejected a petition by the Coordinadora Democrática opposition coalition for such a referendum on the grounds that the signatures had been collected prior to the midpoint in the president's term, an election law violation. The CEN then issued new, stricter rules for such referenda.

Chávez has expressed confidence that the opposition will fail in its recall efforts, promoting illusions in bourgeois democracy in a situation where the capitalist class continues to have a firm grip on the economy.

"Venezuelans are free," stated Chávez October 18, according to Associated Press. "He who wants to sign may do so—we are not going to coerce them or pressure them."

The Venezuelan president also stated, "They should know that although they are not going to get [a referendum], their names will be recorded. Unlike in a vote, which is secret, they will sign. They will put their first and last names, their national ID number, and their fingerprint."

Further reading

The Leninist Strategy of Party Building
The Debate on Guerrilla Warfare in Latin America
by Joseph Hansen

In the 1960s and '70s, revolutionists debated how to apply the lessons of the Cuban Revolution to struggles elsewhere. An analysis by a participant in that debate. \$26.95

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“is creating an army of youth in order to indoctrinate.”

These accusations are helping to solidify support for Chávez among the toilers. When we showed the *Universal* article to Jiménez and Sánchez, they laughed and dismissed the claims as ridiculous. They both said, however, that they do intend to vote against the recall referendum and take part in more activities against the opposition.

Responding to the claims that the government is “Cubanizing” the country through the volunteer doctors program and the literacy campaign, Sánchez said, “There is no Cubanization, we are simply trying to take our destiny into our own hands. This time we are trying to do it in a bloodless way.”

Sánchez said he knew about the Cuban Revolution from the 1960s. He had been a member of the Armed Forces for National Liberation (FALN) in 1965–1966. The FALN was one of the groups that carried out guerrilla warfare as a strategy to topple the capitalist government in power at that time. Sánchez said he was part of an operation to try to recover a weapons shipment from Cuba to the FALN in 1965. The shipment was intercepted by the Venezuelan army, he stated.

“They say Fidel executed many, but how many thousands did Batista kill?” he asked, referring to Cuban president Fidel Castro and Fulgencio Batista, who headed a U.S.-backed dictatorship in the Caribbean island until he was overthrown by Cuban workers



Providing eye glasses for those trying to learn how to read and write is part of Mission Robinson. Left: Venezuelan assistant of Cuban doctors volunteering in Caracas helps older woman who signed up for literacy classes in January 23 neighborhood of Caracas to put on new glasses, in July. Right: Cuban optometrist (on the right) examines eyesight of Venezuelan who is taking part in literacy classes in Valencia, the country’s third-largest city and capital of Carabobo state, also in July.



Granma photos by Ricardo López Hevia

and peasants on New Year’s Day 1959. The second phase of Mission Robinson began in early October. Classes will last through July 2004, aimed at taking participants through the fourth-grade level of education. Phase three, scheduled to start in October of next year, will last through July 2005, when those graduating are supposed to reach the sixth-grade mark. According to the Cuban daily *Granma*, some 300,000 Venezuelans graduated from the first set of literacy classes by September 21. In events throughout the country in September, Chávez and other government officials handed literacy certificates to 200,000 people. In one such event at

Miraflores, Jesús Serpa, a peasant from the mountainous areas in the state of Miranda, said that no other government had paid attention to the needs of working people in the countryside, such as teaching everyone how to read and write. “We have with us here the teacher Leonola Relys,” Chávez said in response, according to *Granma*, “representing the Cuban people, Fidel, and this army of collaborators who are helping us to achieve what seemed unthinkable.”

Literacy method developed by Cuban

Relys is the Cuban teacher who developed the literacy method now used in Venezuela, which associates letters with numbers since most people who are illiterate have some knowledge of numbers from daily activities on the job, playing games such as domino, or buying food in the market. Relys served on a literacy campaign in Haiti prior to taking major responsibility for Mission Robinson. In an interview with *Granma* in June, she said, “I had the opportunity to take part in the literacy campaign in my country as a teenager, which moved me because I taught very humble peasants to write their names and helped them in writing their first letters and reading their first books.”

The method has been very effective, said Adrian Viana in Barrio Nuevo Chapellín, a working-class district in El Recreo neighborhood of Caracas, October 3. Viana is a high school student who organizes and teaches literacy classes there. “In this barrio of 3,000 people we identified 58 as illiterate by doing a census through house-to-house visits,” he said. “Last week we completed the first phase with 25 of these people, of

whom 21 graduated. Most illiterate people here are older women.” There was a similar situation at a literacy class in the Montepiedad section of the January 23 neighborhood of Caracas October 8, where all participants were women workers. No children take part in that class, said Carolina Valecillos, 19, the literacy teacher there. Classes are also taking place among Venezuelans in some of the most remote areas of the country, such as the Piaroa Indian tribe in the Amazon, in southern Venezuela, near Brazil. According to Javier Labrada, who is heading the Cuban team aiding Mission Robinson in Venezuela, more than 25,000 indigenous people have enrolled in the literacy classes. About 1,700 inmates in various prisons across the country are also taking part in the literacy program. In addition to the 1.5 million illiterates, another 2 million Venezuelans have never finished basic education. Mission Sucre, which began this fall, offers free adult education courses to people seeking to improve their skills.

During a visit to Cumaná, a fishing center on Venezuela’s northern coast 300 miles west of Caracas, Tomás Blanca, a fisherman there, proudly displayed his receipt for having signed up for such a class in the evenings. Illiteracy rates among fishermen there are much higher than the national average of 7 percent. During a visit to the San Carlos neighborhood of Cumaná in July 2002, *Militant* reporters were told by Delia Bermúdez that she had heard from Cuban physical education teachers and doctors in the area that Cuba eliminated illiteracy quickly after the 1959 revolution that overthrew the Batista dictatorship. “I don’t know exactly how they did it, but that’s what we need here,” she said. Her wish is beginning to come true a year later. This is increasing the self-confidence of millions of working people who more and more speak out and are willing to act against the opposition efforts to restore a relationship of forces more favorable to the bosses.

‘Our weapons are our pencils’

“They say we are being indoctrinated but this is not true,” Ana Bolívar, 49, a worker taking part in a literacy class at the Montepiedad section of the January 23 neighborhood of Caracas, told *Militant* reporters October 8. “We are learning how to read and write for the first time because the opposition never allowed us to before. They accuse us of being armed, but the only weapons we have are our pencils.” The January 23 neighborhood is a working-class district on the hills overlooking downtown Caracas, near Miraflores, the presidential palace. Hundreds of thousands of working people from this area poured out toward Miraflores on April 12, 2002, the second day of the military coup against Chávez, helping foil the attempted overthrow of the government. Referring to that experience, and explaining—in a typical comment—workers’ hatred towards the pro-imperialist opposition, Celina Azuaje, an unemployed garment worker attending the same literacy class as Ana Bolívar, added: “We also have the courage to go down to Miraflores to defend Chávez one more time if they try to topple him again.”



Carolina Valecillos, 19, at right, teaches literacy class in January 23 neighborhood, Caracas, October 8. Celina Azuaje, a garment worker, is at center (looking down).

Peasants demand land in Bolivia

BY RÓGER CALERO

Having forced the resignation of president Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada October 17 through their mass mobilizations, workers and peasants in Bolivia continue to press their demands against the increasingly intolerable social conditions that exist in that country. In late October, landless peasants occupied a 5,000-acre farm in La Paz, the

country’s capital, owned by the former president’s family. “What is the government waiting for to resolve the situation of those killed and wounded in the October massacres?” asked the United Confederation of Workers and Peasants of Bolivia (CSUTCB) in a statement to the new government headed by Carlos Mesa. “What is the government waiting for to resolve the occupations of idle lands owned by powerful politicians?” The statement was referring to the killing by government troops of at least 80 protesters in the weeks leading up to Sánchez de Lozada’s downfall. Another 200 were wounded. Mesa, who was the country’s vice president, assumed the presidency after Sánchez de Lozada fled to the United States. The CSUTCB and the Movement of Landless Peasants (MST) have continued to carry out occupations of land and other properties belonging to government officials, including a mine owned by the former president. They are also demanding the distribution of land promised to them, and relief from the crisis. In Cochabamba, soldiers and the police attacked a group of peasants with live ammunition and rubber bullets after they occupied lands owned by the former minister of defense, Carlos Sánchez, who the peasant organizations blame for the October killings. The popular revolt that brought down the president was driven by cuts in social wel-

fare programs, the devastation of peasant’s livelihoods by the U.S.-backed destruction of coca crops, and the drive to sell off the country’s patrimony to imperialist investors. In the face of growing discontent the Bolivian rulers were forced to suspend an earlier government plan to export natural gas to the United States. They have promised to organize a referendum to decide on the gas deal. Tens of thousands of workers and peasants in the southern city of Tarija, where the country’s largest gas reserves are found, marched October 21 to reject the gas proposal. At the urging of Washington, the government has carried out a coca plant eradication program, including spraying herbicide on peasants’ fields from aircraft, and limiting the areas and amount permitted for local consumption. The cultivation of coca is the primary source of income for thousands of peasants in Bolivia, as well as for small merchants and truck drivers who transport the crop. Primarily grown for local use, coca leaves are chewed by thousands of workers in the countryside and in the mines for medicinal purposes or to mitigate hunger, thirst, and fatigue. The government had promised peasants it would find markets for alternative crops, something it has so far failed to do. On October 24 Mesa reaffirmed his commitment to continue the coca eradication program of his predecessor.

from Pathfinder

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes

“There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before there will be a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba.” That statement, made by Fidel Castro in 1961, remains as accurate today as when it was spoken. This is a book about the class struggle in the United States, where the revolutionary capacities of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly. It is about the example of the Cuban people that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. \$13.00.



‘Progressives’ sought to curb capitalism

The following are excerpts from “The rise and fall of Progressivism,” a chapter in *America’s Revolutionary Heritage*, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for October. George Novack was the editor of the book, and the author of many of its chapters, including this one. Copyright © 1976 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted here by permission.



BY GEORGE NOVACK

The last three decades of the nineteenth century were basically a period of tightening political reaction following the colossal revolutionary leap of the Civil War and Reconstruction. This “Gilded Age” saw the impetuous, almost uninterrupted rise of capitalist forces in the United States and



Right, William Jennings Bryan, a leader of the Progressive movement at the turn of the 20th century who advocated social and monetary reforms. He is shown in 1925 with Clarence Darrow, another leading Progressive. Bryan was the prosecutor and Darrow the defense attorney in the ‘Scopes’ trial on the teaching of evolution in public schools.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

on a world scale. Despite minor and puffed-up reforms, the triumphant plutocracy was energetically consolidating its grip over the major spheres of our national life.

The ever-harsher domination of the capitalist oligarchy encountered resistance all along the way from the masses. These were divided into three important sections: the agrarian producers, the urban middle classes, and the industrial workers. The currents of protest welling forth from the depths of the people were mostly movements of reform which aimed to curb, control, or

reverse the processes of capitalist concentration in economic, political, and cultural life. Outright revolutionary voices were rare, and working-class tendencies bent upon the abolition of capitalism were in their infancy.

The principal large-scale political struggles were waged between the agents of the plutocracy and the representatives of the liberal petty bourgeoisie who headed the plebeian masses. Except in industry itself, the proletariat was as yet a subordinate factor in national affairs. The mainstream of political opposition came from the Populist-Progressive movement, which had its direct social base in the middle-class elements of the country and city. The proletarian currents at various times ran parallel to this mainstream, fed from it, or even emptied themselves into it....

The movement reached the peak of its social energy and political influence in 1896, when its aims ostensibly were adopted by the Democratic Party, and [William Jennings] Bryan led the Progressive hosts in an attempt to dislodge the finance capitalists from power in Washington. After Bryan’s defeat [in the presidential election], the Spanish-American war, and the ensuing prosperity, the Progressive movement died down except in the rural districts. It was revived by the crisis of 1907 and took on several new shapes, culminating in 1912 in

Theodore Roosevelt’s Bull Moose crusade and Wilson’s New Freedom.

The entry of the United States into the First World War dealt a mortal blow to the Progressive cause but did not completely dispose of it. After a regional revival in the agrarian Northwest, the movement had a spasmodic national resurgence in the La Follette campaign of 1924, which was a belated response to the consequences of the postwar crisis of 1921. Even then the force of the movement, which had so many hopes deposited with it, was not wholly spent. In his speeches against “the economic royalists,” Franklin D. Roosevelt skillfully exploited Progressive sentiments and traditions to win support for his New Deal. His ex-vice-president, Henry Wallace, aided by the Stalinists, sought in vain to resurrect the corpse of Progressivism as late as 1948.

In all these incarnations, the Progressive movement has been middle class in body and spirit....

A movement for reforms

The Progressives wanted the machinery of the United States government cleansed of its more glaring aristocratic vestiges and its democracy perfected by the introduction of such reforms as the direct election of senators and judges. They sometimes stopped halfway even in the direction of

democratizing the state apparatus. They campaigned, for example, to abolish the Supreme Court’s veto power over congressional enactments but upheld the president’s veto power, which is a relic of monarchical rule; they asked for direct election of senators on a state basis, but not the president on a national scale; they did not call for a single instead of a double system of national legislative bodies. Their demands for civil service reform and for cheap, honest, efficient administration even pleased a part of the ruling class which could get along without direct corruption or coercion of their political servitors....

Nevertheless, these reforms did not result in any basic changes in American life or reverse the processes of capitalist centralization and control. In some cases they even produced consequences contrary to those expected or promised. The laws curbing or breaking up the trusts did not halt but rather facilitated the growth of the monopolies. The income tax, which was to make the rich pay more for the costs of running the government, became converted into an engine for extorting the pay of the workers. The various electoral revisions failed to make the system more responsive to the voters’ will; instead of breaking up the party machines, the primaries gave the bosses an additional instrument for hand-picking their candidates....

The fundamental reason for the failure of Progressivism lay in the fact that it was progressive only in its incidental features. At bottom it was a retrograde movement which aspired to turn back the wheel of history and reverse the development of modern society. The Progressives longed for a return to the childhood of American capitalism while it was maturing into imperialism. This impotent yearning for an irrecoverable past gave the movement its basically reactionary direction and enveloped it in a utopian atmosphere.

The Progressives demanded greater equality, wider opportunities, peace, the extension of democracy, the sharing and spreading of wealth—all within the boundaries of capitalism. They received in increasing measure more inequality, fewer opportunities for fewer people, wars, the growing concentration of wealth, and political autocracy along with it. These were the natural fruits of monopolist rule launched upon its imperialist phase.

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CIA, FBI, landlords—Landlords and management agencies are reported subscribing to a budding number of web sites that peddle



Harry Ring

rap sheets on prospective tenants. Some services will access the Treasury Dept. site which collects info from the CIA and FBI. Their lists include asserted terrorist suspects, drug traffickers, etc. That's from the October 12 *New York Times*.

'Even' or 'especially'?—One rights group voices concern on what turns up in the files sold to landlords, including lists of tenants who have taken landlords to court. Declared the director: "Even if the tenant prevails, that information becomes part of these tenant screening services and the tenant ends up blacklisted."

Scientist, big time—*Stars and Stripes*, a federally funded paper for GIs, reported that in a survey half of 1,939 soldiers responded that morale in their unit was low or very low. In a withering rebuttal, Joint Chiefs of Staff head Gen. Richard Myers branded the poll "unscientific." He declared: "I do talk to a great many of the troops. They

seem up and recognize the importance of the task they're doing and proud of what they're doing." Since the U.S. takeover in Iraq, at least 13 G.I.s have committed suicide.

Righton—JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—"A Black community of sheep herders won a lengthy battle over its claim to diamond-rich land that was confiscated over 70 years ago by a white-run South African government. The area is still rich in diamonds."—Associated Press, October 15.

Ho-hum—Lawyers for Health South reported that company records ordered preserved by the feds were found shredded days later. The documents were to kick off a Congressional probe.

How about crafting prison cells for officials?—We noted the UN finding that globally, the people living in substandard areas and dwellings number in the billions and continue to swell. A UN figure said the trick "is to make the slum dwellers part of the solution by encouraging the development of craft businesses."

The can-do system—"Raleigh, North Carolina—State workers are quitting in record numbers, officials say. They've gone two years without a raise and collected more duties as thousands of jobs go unfulfilled because of North Carolina's budget troubles. The exodus is forcing the state to hire expensive private contractors

and pay overtime to cover essential shifts in psychiatric hospitals and prisons."—*USA Today*.

Cultural note—Apple Computers iTunes evoked a blush. In offering George Frederick Handel's 1742 "Messiah," it included a warning that it might prove inappropriate to children and sensitive adults. Soon, however, Apple removed the cautionary note, mumbling that it must have been a mix-up.

Homeland security?—The reader who contributed the above item suggests that maybe the "Messiah" "mix-up" was triggered by the line: "Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us."

N.Y. construction workers rally for union jobs

BY DAN FEIN

NEW YORK—Some 800 union members from the building trades rallied and marched here on October 16 in the midtown section of Manhattan to protest the use of nonunion labor at construction sites in the city.

Two giant rats, used by the trade unions in the New York area to scandalize nonunion employers, stood outside the Hampton Inn on 24th Street and 31st Street, near 6th Avenue. Contractors, using nonunion labor, were doing work on these high-rises.

Iron workers, tile setters, carpenters, laborers, cement workers, plumbers, and other construction workers came to the afternoon rally after work. After hearing a speaker on 31st Street, the demonstrators marched down to 24th Street.

Charles Ramos, a member of the Ironworkers union for 10 years, said he'd been at a similar rally a couple of months ago. He said the nonunion companies pay substantially less than union scale. "A lot of them only get \$7–8 per hour."

Robert Gould, a member of the Ironworkers union Local 397 in Tampa, Florida, came to the rally. He and his friend, who is also a member of the same local, have been working in New York for months on the Triborough Bridge. Gould told the *Militant*, "I'm here today to keep nonunion contractors from coming here and cutting our throats. They have already done it back home."

Gerry McQuade is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 3 with 14 years seniority. He said, "We are here to keep construction jobs union. We need safety and health benefits at union levels. Nonunion outfits are a downward pressure for our wages and benefits."

A flyer passed out at the rally explained that some of the nonunion bosses in the city who refuse to sign a contract with the union, have more work than many of the union con-



Militant/Stu Singer

Some 800 members of building trades unions rally October 16 in front of the Hampton Inn in Manhattan to protest use of non union labor by construction bosses.

tractors. "The contractor signs a catch-all, bogus union that legally covers them from many of the attacks of legitimate organizing campaigns," said the flyer.

Greg Nolan a member of the Operating Engineers union for 30 years explained: "We're here because there's a nonunion

company working around the corner. We're from all the building trades. We came out as union construction workers to show that we're not happy with nonunion work. The union contractors pay the prevailing wage and have apprentice programs. The non-union companies don't."

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



November 10, 1978

SAN ANTONIO—Chicanos and Mexicans have condemned a Carter administration plan to build a ten-foot-high border fence that could cripple climbers.

The galvanized steel grating is to be "so sharp it will shear off toes," according to the government contractor.

Plans for the fence, dubbed the "tortilla curtain" by its opponents, were announced October 23 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). In addition to the razor-sharp grating, the fiendish device will be set in a concrete base to prevent tunneling.

Fences are initially planned for two locations: between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez; and the San Diego–Tijuana border. Total cost for the two projects is estimated at \$3.5 million.

In addition to brutality by INS cops, Mexican workers will now face a further risk in trying to escape Mexico's subpoverty wages and 60 percent unemployment.

The fence is part of Washington's attempts to blame U.S. economic problems on "aliens." Congress recently approved \$1.5 million for a fence on the Arizona border and \$900,000 to repair the existing fence near San Diego. It also voted to allow INS and Border Patrol agents to search vehicles without warrants.

A *Los Angeles Times* dispatch noted that the proposed new barriers "are steps along a technological road that could one day seal the entire border."



November 9, 1953

Twenty-five years ago, on Nov. 15, 1928, *The Militant* was born. It is a difficult job to publish a fighting socialist newspaper in the richest capitalist country in the world.

But it is precisely in this country that the powerful ideas of Marxism are most necessary. *The Militant* provided these ideas to the workers in continuous publication for over a quarter of a century. This was a historic achievement.

It would have been impossible without the valiant *Militant* Army. They are the pluggers who have brought *The Militant* to the picket lines in the period of stormy labor struggles.

They faced the cops, the fascists, the American Legionnaires, the Jim Crow racist mobs, the company thugs—and got the paper to the workers rain or shine.

They braved the gangs of Stalinist hooligans, who harassed and beat our distributors in the early years, and the goons of the labor bureaucracy.

They are the people who got subscriptions in house-to-house campaigns, in the factories, in the unions and sold the paper on the streets.

We salute the *Militant* Army on our 25th birthday. This army will swell its ranks. It will send its patrols to every corner of the country wherever labor works and fights. Join the *Militant* Army. Subscribe. Get subs from your friends and shopmates. Get the truth to the workers. Only the socialist truth can set us free.

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Stop the raids and deportations!

By arresting more than 250 workers in immigration raids, the U.S. government is aiding the retail giant Wal-Mart to continue superexploiting workers and prevent the United Food and Commercial Workers or any other union from organizing the workforce of 1.2 million. The labor movement should protest the raids, and demand the immediate release of those arrested and the halt of any deportation proceedings against these workers.

Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE) officials cynically claim they are simply enforcing the law. They hypocritically declare they are going after companies like Wal-Mart that knowingly exploit immigrant labor to make money.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The targets here are the workers and the union.

Immigration authorities have acknowledged they were snooping for years prior to these sweeps. They claim to have wiretaps of conversations between Wal-Mart executives, managers, and contractors showing the bosses had direct knowledge of the immigration status of their employees. None of the Wal-Mart executives are in jail, though, nor is it likely they will be indicted. It is only hundreds of workers who have been arrested and face deportation.

Moreover, la migra apparently knew for at least two years that many undocumented workers were being employed by Wal-Mart. They are arrested now, though, in the middle of efforts by the UFCW to organize Wal-Mart workers. These renewed union-organizing efforts come after a majority of meat cutters at a Wal-Mart store in Texas voted to be represented by the UFCW in early 2000 and the company refused to recognize the union. The retail giant has gone out of its way to block unionizing efforts by firing union supporters and other intimidation tactics.

The anti-worker laws BICE says it is enforcing with the Wal-Mart raids are not intended to stem “illegal” immigration nor to stop the superexploitation of undocumented workers. These laws are always enforced selectively to scare workers without a green card away from organizing into unions or defending basic rights as human beings. The government in Washington, which represents the interests of the wealthy, is working hand-in-glove with the employers to safeguard the system of wage slavery.

Wal-Mart executives claim to have had no knowledge of the undocumented status of the workers arrested because

the majority of them were employed by contractors. These middlemen are a vital part of the vast network maintained by the capitalists to provide them with a steady source of cheap labor. It begins with the *coyotes* who are paid to seek workers out in Mexico and bring them into the United States, often at enormous fees and under life-threatening conditions of transport for the workers.

The contractors provide companies like Wal-Mart with a thin veneer of cover from responsibility for the low wages and deplorable conditions of work many immigrants are subjected to—like working for months without a single day off. When faced with a unionization effort, the bosses often claim the workers are “independent contractors,” not employees. The employers will continue to use contractors in this fashion against broader layers of the working class.

Working people throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Africa, Asia, and increasingly in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics are being driven to immigrate due to the world capitalist crisis that has particularly devastating effects in these regions. Some 17 million people were unemployed in Latin America at the end of 2002. The jobless rate in Argentina topped 21 percent. In Uruguay and Venezuela unemployment exceeded 15 percent. Nepal led Asia with 47 percent joblessness. In some African countries more than half the population is unemployed.

This immigration, however, has strengthened the working class in the United States and other imperialist countries. Not only at Wal-Mart, but in plants, mines, and mills across the country immigrants are a growing component of vanguard workers fighting to organize unions as an effective tool to resist the bosses’ offensive. Through these experiences, a growing number of working people—regardless of their citizenship or immigration status—recognize that the struggle to defend the rights of immigrants is a necessary part of defending *our* class against the employer attacks on our jobs, wages, conditions of work, and social gains. A strong example of this is the solid backing by the United Mine Workers of America for the fight by the Co-op coal miners in Utah—in their majority immigrants from Mexico—to beat back the company lockout and return to work with the union.

The labor movement should demand: Stop the workplace raids and deportations now!

Students aid Utah miners

Continued from front page

ers of America (UMWA) about the need to get a union organized to help fight the abusive working conditions and low wages. On September 22, the Co-op miners walked off their jobs, protesting the suspension of a worker and unsafe job conditions. The company, C.W. Mining, fired all the workers. The miners set up picket lines in front of Co-op October 3.

This mine is owned by the Kingston family, a religious clan of the Latter-Day Church of Christ. The clan is reported to have some 1,000 members and a \$150-million business empire in six western states. The Kingstons, who are known to practice polygamy, have made as much \$1 million a month from this mine.

Charles Reynolds, the personnel manager of C.W. Mining Company, charged in a letter to the editor published in the *Sun Advocate*, the twice-weekly paper published in Price, Utah, that “the employees were asked to return to work or go home. They were not fired.” He also stated, “The company has incentive pay in addition to actual base pay. The combined pay ranges from \$5.50 to \$20 per hour.”

On October 21, a letter signed by 13 locked-out miners answered these charges and explained what their fight is about. In response to the company’s suspension with intent to discharge one of the miners, the letter says, “Workers got together and went to management to resolve the problem like they had done the week before but the company called the sheriff and told workers to leave the property. The company claims workers were not fired, but people could not return to the mine. The next day workers were stopped at the gate, with the police present again, and were told that only 10 people who were on a list would be allowed to work and the rest were fired.”

The miners’ letter continues, “For the company to try to justify paying any miner \$5.50 an hour only sheds light on their arrogant belief that they have the right to exploit human beings. Base pay for all miners at Co-Op should be enough for us to provide for our families on any given day. Supplementary pay and bonuses that are tied to production and attendance are only another tool in the company’s hand. If a worker refuses to carry out an unsafe work practice they are likely to lose their bonuses and supplementary pay.”

In interviews on the picket line, the locked-out miners reported that they recently formed four committees to better organize their struggle. The Food Committee will work on ways to get food donated for those picketing and the families of the miners.

The Immediate Necessity committee will work on responding to emergencies such as medical care, utility cutoffs, and eviction notices. In the third week of October, four miners had to be taken to the medical clinic in East Carbon for medical care.

The Picket Line Maintenance committee is working on upgrading the picket lines and making sure that all shifts are staffed. This week a mobile home was donated to the miners and brought down to the picket line. A propane tank is being hooked up to provide heat and a gas generator will provide lighting. This will allow for shelter from very cold mountain wind and air.

Another committee is working on fund-raising, outreach, and communications. Spouses of miners are making donation boxes that will be placed in stores in the surrounding towns. Funds are needed to provide food and other necessities for the miners and their families. Donations can be sent to UMWA, 525 East, 100 South, Price, Utah 84501. Checks should be made out to “Co-op Miners.”

Wal-Mart raid

Continued from front page

United States and another 300,000 in other countries.

Among the detainees the largest group was from Mexico, with 90, followed by the Czech Republic with 35, Mongolia with 22, and Brazil with 20. The other workers were from El Salvador, Uzbekistan, Poland, Russia, Georgia, and Lithuania. Federal officials said they originally intended to arrest 300 in the raids.

In their large majority the workers were employed by contractors used by Wal-Mart to clean its U.S. stores as part of their drive to keep wages and benefits low and to prevent the workers from organizing into a union. Wal-Mart uses about 100 of these contractors to clean about 1,000 stores. Wal-Mart officials have denied having any knowledge that the contract workers did not have immigration papers.

“Of course the store managers knew it,” Víctor Zavala, originally from Mexico, told the *New York Times*. Zavala was working at one of the stores raided in New Jersey. “The other guys in the crew didn’t speak one word of English. Of course they knew it, but if you asked them, they’ll say ‘we thought they were citizens or residents,’” he said.

Zavala, who was working as a subcontractor for one of the cleaning companies used by Wal-Mart, told the New Jersey *Star-Ledger* that at the end of each six-day week, a check would be left for the crew hidden in the maintenance closet for him to cash and pay the other workers. He never formally met his supervisors and didn’t even know their names. Zavala described how he was grilled by the immigration cops during the interrogation when he told them he did not know the name of his bosses.

The use of cleaning contractors is a widespread practice throughout the industry. Claiming that these workers are independent contractors and not employees, the bosses get away with paying them less than minimum wage with no over-time pay, providing no benefits, and subjecting them to horrendous conditions. One of the workers arrested at the Wal-Mart store in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, originally from Russia, told the press that last year he had worked 90 consecutive days without a day off.

“We don’t know nothing about nights off, we don’t know health insurance, we don’t know life insurance, and we don’t know anything about 401 (k) plans,” said Zavala.

This is the third time Wal-Mart stores have been raided by the immigration police. In 1998 and 2001, some 100 immigrant workers employed by cleaning contractors were arrested in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Missouri.

According to government officials, the latest round of arrests followed an investigation the immigration police began after the raids in 1998 and 2001. Authorities said they used wiretaps during the investigation and had recorded conversations of Wal-Mart executives, managers, and contractors, showing that the bosses had “direct knowledge” of the immigration status of their employees. No charges have yet been filed against Wal-Mart bosses or contractors.

The October 23 raids were carried out largely in suburbs in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The *Wall Street Journal* reported October 24 that Wal-Mart is in the process of moving to bring all of its cleaning work in house.

According to a study by the Pew Hispanic Center in 2001, there were 5.3 million undocumented workers as part of the U.S. workforce, excluding agriculture. An estimated 1.2 million more are employed as farm workers. The greatest numbers are concentrated in meatpacking, poultry processing, and janitorial work. The study also reports that almost a quarter of those working in private households, along with 9 percent of restaurant employees, are undocumented.

During a congressional visit to Mexico October 24, U.S. House minority leader Nancy Pelosi, Democrat from California, said the raids amounted to “terrorizing” workers “who are only trying to earn a living and put food on the table for their family.”

Representatives of immigrant rights organizations have expressed their fears that Operation Rollback signals a return to the scare tactics of the 1970s and 80s, when *la migra* conducted raids at work sites deporting large numbers of undocumented workers.

In the last two years, under the guise of the “war on terror,” the immigration service has been carrying out a series of arrests in sites the government has deemed sensitive to “national security” such as airports and other “landmarks,” like the Sears Tower in Chicago. At the same time, BICE agents have been raiding neighborhoods and other work-sites. Earlier in October, immigration cops arrested 90 workers in Pennsylvania at a distribution warehouse of the retailer TJ Maxx. Last February, some 120 immigrant workers at a safe manufacturing plant in Provo, Utah, were arrested in the biggest raid reported in that state since December 2001, when immigration agents raided the Salt Lake City airport.

Further reading from Pathfinder

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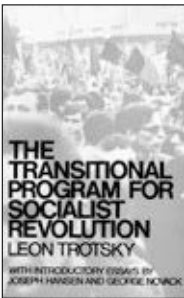
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‘Militant’: voice of communist movement

Continuity traced through the labor battles and political struggles of 1930s

November 15 marks the 75th anniversary of the first issue of the *Militant*, which has been published uninterruptedly since 1928. The *Militant* urges its distributors everywhere to organize public events around that date in celebration of this occasion. These forums can be built around panels of speakers that include workers, farmers, and youth who have joined *Militant* distributors in various social struggles over the years and who have read and appreciate the newspaper. They can also feature a speaker who can explain the history of the *Militant* and its place in building an international communist movement, yesterday and today.

The *Militant* launched this column last week as part of preparing for these events. The first column reprinted an excerpt from “A Short History of *The Militant*,” which first appeared in 1968 on the occasion of the paper’s 40th anniversary.

In that article Joseph Hansen explained how leaders of the Communist Party launched the paper “in opposition to the Stalinist faction that had been placed in command of the Communist Party under a Kremlin ukase.” A key aspect of this was the publication of suppressed documents by Leon Trotsky and other leaders of the Left Opposition in the Soviet Union. From the beginning, Hansen wrote, the editors aimed to maintain the *Militant* as a “fighting paper integrated with the supreme task of our times—to build a combat party of the working class in the tradition of Leninism.”

Hansen was a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party and, at various times, the editor of the *Militant*. The second half of his article appears below.



BY JOSEPH HANSEN

When the Communist League of America fused with the American Workers Party in 1934, the new organization was named the Workers Party. The name of the paper changed accordingly, becoming the *New Militant*. James P. Cannon¹ was designated editor under an agreement allocating leading posts in the new organization on an equitable basis between the two tendencies that had merged.

When promising leftward moving currents appeared in the Socialist Party shortly thereafter, the new organization sought another fusion. To accomplish this it was necessary for the entire Trotskyist tendency to join the Socialist Party as a group. This operation was carried out openly and in agreement with the main leaders of the Socialist Party, who at the time stood for, and advocated, an “all-inclusive” party, even going so far as to extend an invitation to all other currents to join. The Socialist Party leadership, however, under pressure from the right wing, placed rather onerous conditions on the Trotskyists, the worst being an ultimatum to give up publication of our newspaper. This was acceded to, although with great reluctance. The last issue of the *New Militant* (June 6, 1936) announced the decision and, under the terms of the invitation that had been extended by the leadership of the Socialist Party, appealed to all revolutionary-minded militants to

join the “all-inclusive” set up.

The fusion between the left wing of the Socialist Party and the American Trotskyists proved to be profitable so far as the Trotskyists were concerned. Very shortly it became possible to provide an avenue for expressing the revolutionary socialist views of the new combination. A weekly newspaper, *Labor Action*, was founded in San Francisco as the official organ of the Socialist Party of California and James P. Cannon was invited to become its editor. The first issue appeared on November 28, 1936, during the general strike of the West Coast maritime unions.

Within the Socialist Party, however, the very success of the Trotskyists made it increasingly difficult to speak out freely on some truly crucial issues of the time, particularly in relation to the Spanish Civil War, in which the policies of the Stalinists, the Social Democrats and the Anarchists were paving the way for the disaster that eventually befell that very promising revolution. The right wing of the Socialist Party became more and more fearful of the left wing’s growing influence and strength, and initiated steps to contain and, if possible, shatter it. What the right wing intended was clearly signaled by efforts to muzzle the Trotskyists in particular. The Trotskyists therefore prepared for a factional struggle in which a split appeared inherent from the very beginning in view of the gravity of the differences.

Labor Action, which really represented a continuation of *The Militant*, became a casualty in this struggle, the last issue appearing on May 1, 1937.

In the Chicago area, the Trotskyists were joined in the fight by Albert Goldman, a prominent labor attorney, former member of the Communist Party and then of the Trotskyist movement, who had gone into the Socialist Party on his own several years earlier. He edited an officially recognized bulletin in the Socialist Party, the *Socialist Appeal*. When the National Executive Committee voted the *Socialist Appeal* out of existence, this provocative action was countered in New York. The *Socialist Appeal* was adopted by the Socialist Party of New York, Left Wing Branches, as an official weekly organ and reissued in New York beginning August 14, 1937.

The struggle within the Socialist Party came to a conclusion at an Emergency Convention of the Left Wing which opened in Chicago on December 31, 1937. The delegates founded the Socialist Workers Party and named the *Socialist Appeal* as its official weekly organ.

This name remained on the masthead until the issue of February 1, 1941, when the name, *The Militant*, was resumed. The lead editorial in that issue explained why the change had been made:

‘Uncompromising struggle’

“By returning to this name, we symbolize before the workers of America and the revolutionary proletariat throughout the world that our party proclaims today that program of uncompromising international class struggle which we inscribed on our banner from the first moment of our ex-

talism inevitably evolved from early free competitive capitalism to the present stage when new sources of raw materials, markets, and fields of investment are imperative for the survival of the ruling classes of the most powerful capitalist countries.

Although this is often not understood at home and abroad, the term “imperialist” can accurately be used to describe the Canadian ruling class.

Beatrice Bryant
Blenheim, Ontario

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.



A group of miners arrested and shackled in September 1928 during the fight to organize the mine workers union in West Virginia mines. The *Militant* was founded that year by veterans of labor struggles like this, and leaders of the Communist Party in the United States who rejected the Stalinist course of its leadership.

istence.

“The Socialist Workers Party has also been compelled by a reactionary federal law, the Voorhis Act, to discontinue its organizational affiliation with the World Party of Socialist Revolution, the Fourth International.

“But by this banner, *The Militant*, we make known to the revolutionary vanguard everywhere that we remain loyal to our common goal.”

It can be truthfully said that, in the years since then, *The Militant* has remained loyal to the program with which it began, although some of those who served on its editorial board did fall by the wayside.

On December 13, 1944, another change was made that should be noted. *The Militant* ceased to be the official organ of the Socialist Workers Party. An editorial announced that it was to be published “henceforth solely upon the responsibility of *The Militant* Publishing Association, its owner and publisher.” The editorial specified that all statements in that and future issues of *The Militant* represented the views of the officers and editors of The Militant Publishing Association.

This measure was taken because of the witch-hunt whipped up by the Government against those who opposed World War II as another imperialist carnage. The Socialist Workers Party had already been singled out by the witchhunters for special attention. The party leaders were tried in 1941 under the Smith “Gag” Act, being the first victims of that infamous law against freedom of thought and the press. Later, when the Supreme Court refused to hear their appeal, they had to serve prison sentences because of their views. *The Militant* came under heavy pressure because of its role in seeking to popularize the program of the Socialist Workers Party and printing the speeches and articles of its leaders opposing the war aims of U.S. imperialism. Issues of *The Militant* were held up by the censors, and for a time it appeared that the Roosevelt administration would even seek to deprive *The Militant* of its second-class mailing rights.

The Militant, as I indicated, began as a partisan political newspaper directed primarily to the cadres of the Communist Party. Its audience was thus necessarily a limited one. This is reflected in the nature of the articles it featured, dealing with what many persons at the time thought were highly abstract and even hair-splitting questions, such as the difference between Trotsky’s theory of permanent revolution and Stalin’s concept of “socialism in one country” and how this difference had become involved in the revolutionary struggles of our time—and what it signified for their success and for the defense of the USSR. These questions turned out to be very concrete. Looking back now, some of these articles, many of them bearing the signature of Leon Trotsky, still remain among the most interesting and thought-provoking published over the years. Revolutionists of today will find much in them bearing on their own problems, even though much has changed

in the intervening years.

Change in orientation

In 1933, however, when it became clear in the light of the events in Germany (in which the Communist Party permitted Hitler to walk into power without a fight) that the Communist International and its sections were beyond hope of reform, the Trotskyists changed their orientation. Instead of addressing themselves mainly to the cadres of the Communist Party, they turned directly to the broad layers of the American working class. This was reflected, of course, in *The Militant*. It sought a more popular appeal. Strike struggles, union problems, activities of the mass organizations—all these became of primary concern. *The Militant* began to establish a reputation for the honest and uncompromising way in which it covered the unemployed movement, labor’s battles and the struggle for black liberation. Its pages over the years thus constitute excellent source material for studies of these struggles, particularly as they were estimated by the Trotskyists from their international Marxist point of view. *The Militant* also contains an immense amount of first-hand information from participants in major battles of the working class over the years.

In making this turn, *The Militant* never lost sight of the revolutionary Socialist goals to which it had been dedicated from the beginning. It continued to provide analyses, special reports and a Trotskyist political orientation on all major developments in the world. It remained preeminently a paper with an international outlook.

Besides its record in World War II, the case of the Korean war offers a good example of the standard maintained by *The Militant*. It was the first newspaper in the United States, to my knowledge, to come out in complete opposition to Truman’s course of involving America in the civil war in that land. There was no ambiguity about the unconditional support it offered to the Korean people. Its exposure of what it saw as the imperialist aims of the U.S. and what its military machine did to the Korean people in that war provides a model of revolutionary journalism.

The Militant has followed the same basic policy in the Vietnam war, defending the right of the Vietnamese people to determine their own fate without interference from the United States or any other power. Thus *The Militant* was instrumental in popularizing the slogan, “Bring the GI’s home, now.”

The Militant has always been particularly attentive to the struggles of peoples in the colonial world, and has a proud record in this respect, as can be judged from the way it reported and defended the Chinese revolution, the Algerian revolution and above all the Cuban revolution with its special meaning for the working class in the United States as the opening of the socialist revolution in the Western Hemisphere.

¹James P. Cannon was a founding leader of the communist movement in the United States and a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party until his death in 1974.

— LETTERS —

Imperialism in Canada

Ken Berg’s letter inquiring about the meaning of the term “imperialism” prompted me to reread *Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism* by V.I. Lenin, written in 1916.

Lenin gives the following definition: “imperialism is the monopoly stage of capitalism.” He explains that this includes finance capital (the bank capital of a few very big monopolist banks) merged with the capital of monopolist associations of industrialists that divide the existing world markets, raw materials, and areas of investment. These associations group and regroup according to which of the capitalist powers has the upper hand militarily and financially in the territorial division of the entire world.

If I understand Lenin correctly, capi-

UK gov't reopens immigration jail

BY ALICE SAUNDERS

BEDFORDSHIRE, England—"Close it down," chanted protesters outside the gates of Yarl's Wood detention center on September 28. The action coincided with the reopening of the prison 20 months after a fire forced its closure.

Yarl's Wood will be used as a removal center for immigrants whose requests for asylum have been denied. Authorities say they will be held for 24 hours before deportation. At the time of the center's closure in February 2002, only 46 of the 385 immigrants that were being held there had been served with a removal notice, and many had been imprisoned for several months.

Around 50 people took part in the rally, which began with a five-mile march from Bedford town center. Many of the young people and others who joined said they were involved in campaigns against the internment of asylum seekers in other areas of England.

George Binetk, the chairman of the Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers and a member of the UNISON trade union, told the rally: "I'm opposed to immigration detention.... Yarl's Wood is a flagship, because it's privatized"—that is, run for profit by Group 4, a company under contract to the government.

Binetk said that plans to build "accommodation centers" in Bicester and Oxfordshire have sparked local protests. Some of the opposition, he said, has come from rightist forces who call for zero immigration.

Jessica Baily from Sheffield told *Militant* reporters that "I came here because I'm very committed to human rights for refugees." She is a member of Student Action for Refugees, which builds links with immigrant communities.

The fire on Feb. 14, 2002, focused attention on Yarl's Wood and the treatment of the people held there. The Fire Brigade Union (FBU) has reported that, despite recommendations from the local Fire Brigade, the center was not fitted with sprinklers. The union's official bulletin states that the decision "was almost certainly influenced by costs."



Yarl's Wood immigration jail in Bedford, England, burning on Feb. 14, 2002. The day before, guards at the facility attacked a 51-year old woman imprisoned there, sparking a protest. Two inmates were later framed up on arson charges.

The union has scandalized the company and government about other aspects of the fire, a spokeswoman for the Campaign To Stop Arbitrary Detentions At Yarl's Wood (SADY) told the *Militant* in a phone interview. The FBU revealed that fire engines attending the scene were held at

the gates of the detention center for one hour before getting access to the fire, she said. Meanwhile, the detainees and Group 4 staff—who had not received fire safety training—were trapped inside.

Earlier that day staff members had pinned Eunice Edozie, 51, to the ground

after she had requested access to the chapel. Other detainees protested. The prison authorities say this so-called riot was responsible for the fire, and charged nine inmates with offenses relating to the incident. Five were accused of arson. After a trial that lasted four and a half months, two were convicted of violent disorder and given four-year prison terms. Most of the defense witnesses were deported.

Group 4 and the government bore responsibility for the events, said SADY organizer Emma Ginn to the September 28 rally. "They ordered the detainees to be locked in a burning building," she said.

In an interview with *Militant* reporters, Ginn said, "I got involved when I heard a detention center was opening in this area. Not knowing much about the issues, I organized an education class in my home. We launched SADY in November 2001, and organized visits, helped people get access to rights, organized access to lawyers, and organized bail."

Four days earlier Ginn had been part of a public meeting titled "Yarl's Wood: the disgrace continues," called by SADY. Among the speakers were Eunice Edozie—the woman who had been brutalized by Group 4 staff on February 14—Lucky Jacobs, who was an acquitted defendant at the "arson" trial, and a representative of the FBU.

Another protest will be held at Oxfordshire's Campsfield detention center on November 29.

Protests spotlight Canada 'anti-terror' drive

BY PATRICIA O'BEIRNE

TORONTO—Some 80 people protested outside the Metro West Detention Centre here on October 19 to demand the release of Hassan Almrei, a Syrian man who has been imprisoned here without charges. Almrei is into the fourth week of a hunger strike to demand humane treatment. Held in a notoriously cold solitary confinement cell, Almrei is refusing to eat until the prison authorities give him shoes, a sweater, and assure adequate heating in his cell.

Almrei has demanded a written guarantee that the temperature in his cell will be kept at 22° Celsius (72° Fahrenheit). While officials of Ontario's Ministry of Public Safety and Security insist that there is no problem, a prison guard's report from 1996 stated that one inmate had died that year in the same cell. According to the report, the temperature at the time stood at 10° Celsius (50° Fahrenheit).

The October 19 rally marked the second anniversary of Almrei's imprisonment without charges, two years after he arrived from Syria. He has been held in solitary confinement since his arrest.

The Syrian man is jailed under a government decree known as a "national security" certificate. Using secret evidence that he is denied access to, officials claim that he has links to Al Qaeda, and have ordered his deportation.

Kim Koyama told the rally, "I'm here to make sure history is not repeated." As Japanese-Canadians, he said, "My family and their friends and community were imprisoned without charges during World War II and their property was confiscated. The same injustice is being repeated right now. When we allow this to happen to any ethnic group, all our rights are at risk."

The continued jailing of Almrei is one of several ongoing abuses by the government of basic rights—justified as part of the "war on terror"—that have sparked protests in recent weeks.

The previous day, 85 people took part in a public forum demanding the release of seven men still held without charges in a maximum-security prison outside Toronto. They were among 21 men from Pakistan and India arrested in August and September under a "terrorist drag-

net" dubbed "Project Thread."

The government has since backed off from its terrorism allegations, and has released 14 of the men. Authorities have continued to pursue them, however, for alleged immigration violations.

The meeting demanded that the Canadian government clear the names of all 21 men and provide compensation to them. The speakers included two of the released men and Sophie Harkat, who is fighting to free Mohamed Harkat, her husband. He is also jailed without charges.

Sophie Harkat told the meeting, "I wish I didn't have to be here in front of you, but there is a lot of injustice in Canada." Mohammed Naeem, one of the released detainees, said, "I came to Canada with a dream to improve my medical career.... If people like yourselves had not jumped into the matter, where would I be?" The first "Project Thread" arrests took place in May, when two men were seized and then deported under allegations of citing a defunct business school on their visa applications.

The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act gives the federal government the power to jail indefinitely any foreign national if authorities claim a "reasonable suspicion" of a threat to "national security."

Of the 14 "Project Thread" arrestees who have been released, one had his case withdrawn and left Canada, and four have received exclusion orders. As we go to press, 12 have claimed refugee status. At least two of those still jailed are slated to be deported. Several plan to sue the Canadian government over the way they have been treated.

Immigration Minister Denis Coderre



Mohammed Naeem, one of 21 men imprisoned in Toronto as part of "anti-terror" investigation "Project Thread," speaks at protest meeting at Toronto University September 21.

and his officials have continued to defend Ottawa's actions, in spite of the fact that they are not persisting with the "terrorism" allegations. Department spokeswoman Giovanna Gatti said that investigations had "alleviated" any security concerns, but that "we had reasonable suspicion, [and] whenever you have reasonable suspicion it is our duty to investigate."

Meanwhile, the government has created a new Integrated National Security Assessment Centre (INSAC), bringing together officials from foreign affairs, defense, immigration, transport, and law enforcement. The "homeland security" setup will be located in the Ottawa headquarters of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Canada's spy agency.

Ottawa is also probing instituting a national identity card, and introducing biometrics—the use of physical traits such as fingerprints and iris scans as security identifiers—on passports, as well as on the so-called "Maple Leaf" card, now mandatory for permanent residents.

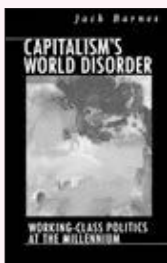
Patricia O'Beirne is the Communist League candidate for mayor of Toronto.

Further reading

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By Jack Barnes

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